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HOUSE BILL 2850

By Fowlkes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, to enact  
The "Foster Child Protection Act of 2000".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Foster Child Protection Act of 2000."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 2, Part 4, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(--)(a) The department of children's services shall be responsible for developing and implementing a performance-based incentive program for contractors, including child welfare agencies, involved in making adoption placements and alternative permanent placements.

(b) Such performance-based system shall replace current contractual payment methodologies in any contract entered into, made or renewed after the effective date of this act.

(c) The department shall develop programs and models to be required in any contract for adoption placements entered into, made or renewed after the effective date of this act to include the following:

(1) development of best practice guidelines for expediting termination of parental rights;

(2) use of concurrent planning;

(3) development of specialized units and expertise in moving children towards adoption;

(4) use of risk assessment tools to facilitate early identification of children at risk of harm if returned home;

(5) models to encourage fast tracking of children who have not attained one (1) year of age into pre-adoptive placements; and

(6) use of programs that place children into pre-adoptive families without waiting for termination of parental rights.

(d) Any contracts entered into, made or renewed after the effective date of this act shall include specific time frames for permanency processes consistent with the "Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997," Public Law 105-89.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2000, the public welfare requiring it.